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THE OBSERVATOR.

The Country-man *begins an Account of the Losses, Dishonour, and Insults,* England *has suffer'd by Sea, since* January *last: For which, the Book, entitl'd,* An Enquiry into the Causes of our Naval Miscarriages, *proposes an effectual Remedy.*

From Wednesday, November 19. to Saturday, November 22. 1707.

Country-m. COme Master, I have more good News for you still.

Obs. I am glad of that, *Roger*: What is it?

Country-m. Why, Master, our Parliament goes on with their Enquiry about our Fleet and Trade, and have before them, a List of the Royal Navy, as it stood the 4th of *May*, 1702. with their Compliment of Men and Guns; an Account of what of her Majesty's Ships and Vessels have been lost, and otherwise decreas'd, since that Time; and an Account of what we have taken or destroy'd of the Enemies, and how many they have taken and destroy'd of ours, since then; and a List of our Navy, as it stood the 14th of *November*, 1707.

Obs. That's a hopeful Beginning, *Roger*. 'Tis the Duty of all good Men, to pray, That God may direct that August Assembly in their Enquiries into the State and Management of our Fleet, for our Trade, Safety, and Reputation, do all depend upon it, under God.

Country-m. I am sure, Master, there never was a more seasonable or important Enquiry undertaken by our Representatives, the grand Inquest of the Nation. For my Part, Master, it makes my Heart, and those of all my Country Neighbours, to bleed, to think what Loss we have sustain'd by Sea, but since *January* last. I am of Opinion, Master, that *England* never had, in one Year, a greater Blow given to her Trade and Security; and therefore, if you please, I'll read you a brief Abstract of what I remember of it, Master.

Obs. Do, *Roger*.

Country-m. We had Advice from *Dover*, of the 10th of *January* last, by a Runner that came in there, that in 10 Days Time, the *French* had taken 16 small Ships.

Much about the same Time, we had Advice from *Dungenness*, That four *French* Privateers, had taken 14 of our Coasters, with their Convoy of 25 Guns.

On the 16th of *January*, Letters from *Kingsail* of the 3d, brought an Account, That eight Ships in that Harbour were drove a-shore, four of them *Virginia*-men with Tobacco; the *East India* Ships at the same Time, which sail'd thence a few Days before, were all drove back, and damag'd in their Rigging; 12 or 14 Boats were drove from their Moorings, and stav'd to Pieces; and some were lost coming from *Cork* with Provisions.

Obs. That was the Hand of God, *Roger*, which ought to humble us, but not make us murmur.

Country-m. True, Master; but it may also deserve the Enquiry of our Superiors, if there was no Neglect of having early Convoys, or of not taking the Opportunity of fair Winds, for such Things are frequently complain'd of by our Merchants and Traders. But I go on, Master.

On the 23d of *January*, we had Advice from on Board the *Cornwall* Man of War, before *Lisbon*, That they had been very diligent to refit and revictual our Ships, and getting Forrage for our Horses; and when they were ready to sail, they were detain'd two Weeks longer, by Orders from *England*, procur'd by the King of *Portugal*, who propos'd to join such a Number of Troops with all Necessaries to ours, as might enable us to do Service on that Side; but the King of *Portugal* dying, there was such a Delay in performing those Promises, that it was resolv'd, our Ships should sail for *Valencia*; and accordingly the Earl *Rivers*, and his Family, embark'd for that Expedition. There's no Doubt, Master, but that Noble Lord can give an Account what Loss we sustain'd in that Voyage; and it ought to be left to the Wisdom of our Superiors, to enquire into the Causes of the Failure of the Promises by the *Portuguese*; for there's no Reason we should be ill us'd or neglected by any of our Allies. And this Delay and Failure, in my Country Opinion, deserves our Enquiry so much the more, that perhaps our Fleet might have avoided the Damage they suffer'd by a Tempest in their Way to *Valencia*, had they sail'd sooner. But all this is with Submission, for our Losses are really so great, that we need not aggravate Things.

We had Advice from *Yarmouth*, of *February* the 10th, That the *Hastings* and *Margaret* Men of War, with 60 Ships bound for *Holland*, were forc'd back by a Tempest; the *Hastings* sunk on the Sands, and all the Crew lost, but 29; and the *Margaret* was damag'd.

On the 8th of *March*, we had Advice from *Falmouth*, by the Captain of the *Lisbon* Packet-boat, That her Majesty's Ships the *Warspight* and *Swiftsure*, in Company of 17 Transports, escap'd narrowly being taken; and he believ'd, most of the rest were taken by a Squadron of 16 *French* Men of War, from 60 to 70 Guns.

Letters from *Lisbon*, of the 12th, N. S. brought a farther Account, That Sir *Thomas Dilks* arriv'd there the 3d, having been six Weeks at Sea, and most of that Time in stormy Weather; by which, his Squadron suffer'd considerably. And that the *Swiftsure* and *Warspight* were arriv'd, having fallen in, about the Latitude of 47, with 16 *French* Men of War; and that 9 of the 18 Ships under their Convoy, were missing; and a *Dantzicker*, laden with Masts for our Men of War there, narrowly miss'd being taken, by throwing his Papers into the Sea, and alledging, the Cargo belong'd to that City; otherwise the *French*, who boarded him, would have made Prize of him.

April the 8th, we had Advice, That the *Spanish* Alliance Packet-boat was taken.

April the 12th, we had News from *Dover*, That our Ships from *Leghorn* were attack'd at *Beachy-head*, by six *French* Privateers: And on the 15th, we had a farther Account, That the *Sunderland* Gally struck without firing a Gun; the *Lodington* was taken after a short Engagement; but the Captains of the *Seahorse* Gally and *Hannover*, fought bravely, and got off with little Loss.

Letters from *Falmouth* of the 19th, brought Advice of the Earl *Rivers*'s and Earl of *Essex*'s Arrival, with two Men of War, and a Yatcht, That their Lordships were twice attack'd in their Passage from *Lisbon*; the last Time, by seven *French* Privateers off of *Ushant*, one of which came up to the *Cambridge*, who giving him a broad Side, brought his Mast by the Board, and oblig'd him to sheer off.

This, I think, Master, is not very honourable for us, who have so long claim'd the Dominion of the narrow Seas, to have our Generals, Fleets, and Merchant-men, so frequently attack'd in our own

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Dominions, and that by Privateers too. But I go on.

April the 26th, we had Advice from *Barbadoes*, That they were in great Fears of an Invaſion there, the Maſter of the Packet-boat having made Oath before the Preſident, That he ſaw 18 large Ships with *French* Colours, in the Latitude of 35, ſteering that Way. This, I think, is an Argument, Maſter, that we ought to take Care of that and our other valuable Plantations in thoſe Parts of the World; and it may, perhaps, be worth out Enquiry, in what Poſture Sir *John Jennings* and his Squadron of ten Men of War, found our Affairs there, at *Jamaica* and elſewhere, and what might have been done againſt the *French* Faction in the *Spaniſh Weſt Indies*, had his Proviſions, Strength, and other Circumſtances, allow'd him to attempt it; and it would ſeem to be no impertinent Queſtion, to ask, What hinder'd our intercepting the Galleons, that have lately brought Home ſo much Bullion to *France* and *Spain*, ſince we had Advice from *Falmouth*, of the 27th of *April*, that ſome of our Men of War had ſail'd in Queſt of them from *Lisbon*?

On the 6th of *May*, we had Advice, That on the 2d, 19 *French* Men of War fell in with 50 of our outward-bound Merchant-ſhips, that ſail'd from the *Downs* the Day before, under Convoy of the *Grafton*, *Hampton-Court*, and *Royal-Oak*, when the *Grafton* and *Hampton-Court* were taken, the *Royal-Oak* much ſhatter'd, and the other Ships diſpers'd, and about eight of them taken. Certainly, Maſter, here ſeems to have been a Defect of Intelligence, if of nothing elſe.

We had Advice from *Portſmouth*, of the 13th, that 14 *French* Privateers plunder'd two *Hamburgers* off of *Beachy-Head*; and a *French* Privateer, much about this Time, took the Packet-boat bound for *Ireland*. Theſe are ſtrange Inſults upon us, Maſter, in our own Dominions of the narrow Seas.

We had Advice from *Sheilds*, of the 26th, that three *French* Privateers on that Coaſt, kept the Coal-Ships from Sailing. And about the ſame Time, three Privateers lay off of *Cork*, in *Ireland*, where they took one Ship, and gave chaſe to ſeveral others.

On the 5th of *June*, we had Advice, That four *Northern* Coaſt was ſtill infeſted by *French* Privateers; and that 30 *French* Men of War and Privateers, were ſeen off of *Graveling*, and the *Flemiſh* Road: And on the 9th and 13th, That a great Coal-Fleet was detain'd at *Shields*, for Fear of the Privateers.

On the 17th of *June*, we had News, That ſix *French* Privateers fell in with Admiral *Whetſtone*, and the *Ruſſia* Fleet; but finding the Convoy too ſtrong, ſheer'd off. A plain Proof, Maſter, that good Convoys and Cruiſers, would quickly ſpoil the *French* privateering Trade, and clear the Seas of them.

On the 19th we had Advice from *Dover*, That Sir *Philip Boteler*, Mr. *Bovrey*, and the Major of *Hyth*, were taken on the Road from *Folkſtone*, by ſome *French*-men, who landed from a Shallop, and took 50 Guineas from Sir *Philip* and Mr. *Bovrey* This ſhows the Neceſſity of guarding our Coaſts by Cruiſers, *&c.* otherwiſe *French* Parties may burn, as well as plunder Places that are without Defence, and carry off People for Ranſoms.

On the 22d, Advices from *Portſmouth* ſaid, That the *Weſt India*, *Virginia*, and *New-England* Ships, were oblig'd to put in there, three or four of our Men of War being chas'd in by 17 or 18 *Dunkirkers*, and at the ſame Time we had 20 capital Ships at *Spithead*.

On the 26th, we had Advice from *Dover*, That ſix *French* Gallies, and eight Men of War, were ſeen off of that Place, and next Day off of *Folkſtone*.

Obſ. You muſt ſtop there, *Roger*, 'till next Time, otherwiſe we ſhall exceed our Bounds; beſides, the Story is melancholy enough, tho' the moſt melancholy part be ſtill to come. In the mean Time, what is ſaid already, is too much to ſhew the abſolute Neceſſity of a ſtrict Enquiry into the State of our Trade and Fleet; and that our Parliament acts the true Part of the Nation's Repreſentatives, in taking it into Conſideration.

Country-m. Then I perceive, Maſter, we muſt adjourn our Reflections upon the Book, entitl'd, *An Enquiry into the Cauſes of our Naval Miſcarriages*, 'till another Time.

Obſ. Yes, *Roger*; but ſince that Book gives an Account of the Management of our Fleet, when it was a ſufficient Security to our Selves at Home, and a Terror to our Enemies Abroad, we may make bold to ſay, that it propoſes an effectual Way to prevent ſuch Misfortunes by Sea, as you have begun to give an Account of.

Advertiſements.

This Day is publiſh'd,

¶ Remarks on the reprinted Tryal of Henry Corniſh, Eſqs; for conſpiring the Death of King Charles the II. &c. on Pretence of ſetting the Fact in a true Light. Wherein the real Cauſes of that Gentleman's being put to Death, are made evident from Tryals publiſh'd by Authority. In Anſwer to the Slanders caſt upon the Memory of the ſaid Mr. Corniſh, and thoſe who join'd him, in Defence of the Rights of the Citizens of London, and of the Engliſh Conſtitution. With an Account of the Contradictions in the Evidence, and of the pretended Ryot at Guildhall, about the Election of Sheriffs, in 1682. with the Names of the Grand and Petty Juries that were empannell'd for the Tryal of the Alderman for his Life; of the Jury that found him and other worthy Citizens, guilty of a Ryot; and of the Sums they were fin'd in; of the Perſons who kept ſix Aldermen, and many of the Citizens out of Guildhall, by Military Force; of the Grand and Petty Juries againſt my Lord Ruſſel; and of Colonel Sidney's Jury; with Part of ſome Informations, taken upon Oath, by a Committee of the Houſe of Lords, who enquir'd into the Adviſers and Proſecutors in the Tryals of the Lord Ruſſel, Colonel Sidney, Sir Thomas Armſtrong, Mr. Corniſh, &c. Sold by B. Bragge in Pater-Noſter-Row. Price 6d.

†‡† Short-writing, the moſt eaſy, exact, lineal, and ſpeedy Method, that hath ever been obtain'd or taught. Compos'd by Theophilus Metcalfe, Author and Profeſſor of the ſaid Art. The laſt Edition. The Copper-cuts having been newly corrected, with a Table for ſhortening of Words. Which Book is able to make a Practitioner perfect without a Teacher, as many Hundreds in this City, and elſewhere, that are able to write Sermons Word for Word, can from their own Experience teſtify. A young Man that lately liv'd in Cornhil, learned ſo well by this Book, that he wrote out all the Bible in this Character. Sold by M. Hotham on London-bridge. Price 1s.

Juſt publiſh'd,

¶ Reflections on the Tryal of Alderman Corniſh, ſhewing the Inconſiſtencies of the Evidence that took away his Life, and clearing Mr. Sheppard from that Aſperſion, which was falſely fix'd upon him, as will be evidently demonſtrated, by ſhewing 1. The Strangeneſs of his Tryal for conſpiring the Death of King Charles the II. who was then dead, and he had been made both Sheriff and Alderman after the pretended Plot. 2. The Improbability of the Evidence which Mr. Corniſh inſiſted on at his Tryal, but was check'd for it. 3. The plain Contradiction of Mr. Sheppard's Evidence, to what the Court and King's Council alledg'd. 4. The remarkable Occurrences at his Death, and the ſeveral Judgments that have happen'd to ſome of his Jury ſince. Sold by B. Bragge in Pater-Noſter-Row.

¶ RUPTURES CUR'D by WIL. COLLIER, at the Bell and two naked Boys in St. John's Lane, near Clerkenwel, and Truſſes made of all ſorts, with ſprings, Joints, ſcrews, or plain, the moſt eaſy and nice that are made in England, as many by Experience can teſtify. He likewiſe maketh Strait-ſtockings.

*** Your old Phyſician Dr. *Caſe*, deſires you not to forget him, who cures all Venereal Diſeaſes, or the Grand P—, with all its attending Symptoms, very cheap, pleaſant, and no Neglect of Buſineſs, in few Days, at *Lilly's Head*, over againſt *Ludgate Church*, within *Black-Fryars* Gate-way.

*** Mrs. Tutchin lives in Hollands-Leagre, by the Glaſs-Houſe near the Faulkon, in Southwark.

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